



American Citizen Services Unit  
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo  
Warden Message



**TO:** American Citizens and Consular Wardens

**FROM:** ACS Unit

**DATE:** June 29, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Rise in Dengue Fever

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This warden message alerts U.S. citizens that the Department of State anticipates a rise in the incidence of Dengue Fever due to the recent heavy rains. Dengue is a tropical disease caused by a virus and transmitted to humans by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

The information on this message is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

Please be aware that no vaccine is available.

*Aedes* is typically a day-biting mosquito, most active during dawn and dusk, and can be easily identified by the distinctive black and white stripes on its body. The mosquito is attracted by the odor, carbon dioxide, and heat emitted by humans and animals. Dengue is characterized by fever, rash, and muscle and joint pains.

To minimize the chances of getting Dengue, medical professionals recommend denying the mosquito its preferred breeding ground: clean stagnant water. Some common sources include artificial and natural containers such as flower vases and pot plates; pails, water-storage jars, basins; discarded receptacles; roof gutters; gully traps; unused toilet bowls and cisterns; A/C and dish rack trays; concrete drains; tree holes; leaf axils, fallen leaves; and ground depressions.

To prevent water collecting in these receptacles, change water in vases/bowls every other day; remove water from flower pot plates every other day, and add sand to the plates; turn over all storage containers; remove stagnant water collected on leaves, tree branches, and in drains, and clean roof gutters at least once a month.

To prevent mosquito bites use a mosquito repellent containing the insecticide DEET (concentration 30 to 35 percent) or Picaridin (concentration 20 percent or greater for tropical travelers). Also, dress in protective clothing (long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes) especially during early morning hours before daybreak and in the late afternoon before dark when mosquitoes are most active. Keep unscreened windows and doors closed and screened windows and doors in good condition.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), early recognition of Dengue and prompt supportive treatment can substantially lower the risk of developing severe disease. Watch for warning signs as an initial fever often declines 3 to 7 days after the principal symptoms begin.

Go **IMMEDIATELY** to an emergency room or the closest health care provider if any of the following warning signs appear:

- Severe abdominal pain or persistent vomiting.
- Red spots or patches on the skin.
- Bleeding from nose or gums.
- Vomiting blood.
- Black, tarry stools (feces, excrement).
- Drowsiness or irritability.
- Pale, cold, or clammy skin.
- Difficulty breathing.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-221-2171; after hours ask to speak to the duty officer; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail [acssantodom@state.gov](mailto:acssantodom@state.gov); web page [www.usemb.gov.do](http://www.usemb.gov.do).

For further information on Dengue and the Dominican Republic, please visit the State Department's website at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1103.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1103.html), or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/dengue>.

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